



Choice Neighborhoods e-Newsletter

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Date – Southeastern and West Coast Regional Convenings

Choice Neighborhoods will be holding two convenings in the coming months focused on the topic of urban and regional economic development. At both convenings, participants will have the opportunity to discuss research and strategies on how to tap into the regional economy as part of a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization effort. First, grantees from cities in the Southeast region of the country are invited to attend a convening at the Atlanta HUD Regional Office on March 20-21, 2014. Grantees from cities on the Western region are invited to attend a similar convening on May 14-15, 2014 at the San Francisco HUD Regional Office. Participants at both convenings will hear from [Robert Weissbourd](#), an expert in drivers of change in neighborhoods and regions. Stay tuned for an invitation email from the Choice Neighborhoods mailbox.

Performance Management in Place-Based Initiatives: Experience of a Choice and Promise Neighborhood

In this webinar moderated by Social Solutions, hear from two organizations that are successfully using data to manage to outcomes in place-based initiatives. The Community Builders, Inc., the lead agency on a Choice Neighborhoods implementation grant in Cincinnati, Ohio and Youth Policy Institute, the lead agency on a Promise Neighborhoods initiative in Los Angeles, will share their successes and challenges with using data to make short term and long term programmatic decisions. They will share examples of front line staff reports as well as higher-level, aggregate reports, and discuss how they use data internally to ensure program fidelity, but also externally in order to work in the most beneficial ways with partnering agencies. They will share their practical experiences and lessons learned on coming to agreement on what data should be measured as a collaborative, how the data will be shared across partners, and what formal agreements must be in place. The webinar takes place February 27, 2014 from 3:00 – 4:30 PM EST. To register, click [here](#).

Technical Assistance Scholarship Program for Addressing Large-Scale Vacancy and Abandonment

The Center for Community Progress seeks applications from public and nonprofit organizations for the new, competitive Technical Assistance Scholarship Program, which serves communities in need of technical assistance to assess, reform, develop and/or implement systems to address large-scale vacancy and abandonment in their respective communities. This program provides the opportunity for communities to receive expert technical assistance from Community Progress at a significantly reduced rate. For more information and to apply, click [here](#). All applications are due by 12:00pm (noon) Eastern Time on Monday, March 24, 2014.



RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

Choice Neighborhoods FY13 Planning Grantee Convening Recap

On January 29-30, 2014, representatives from the nine Choice Neighborhoods FY13 Planning grantees attended an orientation convening at HUD headquarters in Washington, DC. Participants connected with HUD Choice Neighborhoods staff and discussed promising practices from leading neighborhood revitalization practitioners. Grantees also had the opportunity to learn strategies and challenges from each other during facilitated peer exchanges on topics such as community engagement, education partnerships, and public safety. Please check the Choice Neighborhoods technical assistance [website](#) where presentations, video recordings, and other supplemental materials will be uploaded in the next few weeks.

Reconnecting Youth through Dropout Reengagement Centers

The National League of Cities has released a new action guide outlining successful strategies to help individuals finish high school. The guide highlights thirteen U.S. cities that have used reengagement centers to reach disconnected youth. Click [here](#) to read the report.

Healthy Communities Toolkit

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the American Planning Association (APA) have developed a resource to help planners, public health officials, and community members better address health issues in local planning and decision-making. The toolkit is comprised of four components: a Healthy Community Design checklist and presentation; instructions for creating a health profile of a neighborhood, including identifying the most urgent health issues; and a resource guide with additional information for each of the above topics. Click [here](#) to access the toolkit.

Interactive Mapping Tool

The U.S. Census Bureau has released a new interactive mapping tool that provides users with easy access to neighborhood level housing, social, and economic statistics obtained through the recently released 2008-2012 American Community Survey. The tool includes data related to total population; percent 65 and older; foreign-born population percentage; percent of population

with a high school degree or higher; labor force participation rate; median income, and more. Click [here](#) to read the press release and use the tool.

Please give us your feedback!

We work diligently to make this e-newsletter relevant to your work. Please submit Grantee feature articles, constructive feedback, story ideas, and funding announcements to: choicetaenewsletter@bctpartners.com.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Awards for Community-Police Partnerships

LISC is seeking applicants for its [MetLife Foundation Community-Police Partnership Awards](#) which recognize alliances between community organizations and law enforcement which have yielded notable gains in safety and revitalization. Applicants who have rehabilitated problem properties, improved senior housing and spurred commercial activity in high crime areas are encouraged to apply. Winning partnerships will receive monetary awards ranging from \$15,000 to \$30,000. Applications are due March 9th.

Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently soliciting proposals from nonprofit organizations to deliver environmental workforce development and job training programs that recruit, train, and place local, unemployed and underemployed residents with the skills needed to secure full-time employment in the environmental field. This solicitation focuses on programs that will train in areas such as solid and hazardous waste remediation, environmental health and safety, and wastewater-related training. The EPA anticipates awarding approximately 12 grants of \$200,000 each. Applications must be received by February 13, 2014. Click [here](#) to read the announcement.

Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration is requesting applications from regions for designation as one of up to 12 "manufacturing communities." The Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) brings together multiple federal departments and agencies to encourage communities to devise comprehensive economic development strategies that will strengthen their competitive edge in attracting global manufacturers. Designated communities will have the opportunity to compete for \$1.3 billion in federal funds and assistance from 10 cabinet departments and agencies. Applications must be

received by March 14, 2014. Click [here](#) for more information. Click [here](#) to read the announcement on the Federal Register.

Partnerships for Computing Education

The STEM-C (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, including Computing) Partnerships program supports effective K-12 STEM education and teaching in both in- and out-of-school settings. Between 16 and 26 grants will be made annually from a total award of up to \$10,000,000. Proposals must be received by March 18, 2014. Universities and colleges; non-profit, non-academic organizations; and state and local governments are eligible to apply. Click [here](#) to read the funding announcement.

National Home Library Foundation

The National Home Library Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations in order to purchase books for libraries, schools and literacy programs serving children, teens, or adults in need of reading and learning resources. Grants range from \$500 to \$5,000, and applications are accepted throughout the year on a rolling basis. Click [here](#) for more information on how to apply.

Local Initiatives Support Corporation Community Safety Initiative

Since 2002, the **MetLife Foundation** and **LISC CSI** have partnered to recognize, sustain and share the work of innovative partnerships between community groups and police to promote neighborhood safety and revitalization. Through the MetLife Foundation Community-Police Partnership Awards, MetLife Foundation and LISC identify and honor partnerships that exhibit tangible accomplishments in their efforts to advance the process, outcome, and evaluation of potent police-community collaborations. The MetLife Foundation will provide monetary awards of \$15,000 to \$30,000 to partnerships in nine categories, including: Neighborhood Revitalization & Economic Vitality, Diversity Inclusion, Health & Wellness, Blight Reduction, Drug Market Disruption, School-Based Programs, Civic Engagement, Gang Prevention & Youth Safety, and Senior Engagement. Eligible applicants must be member organizations of partnerships that include, but need not be limited to, community organizations and police. Applications are due Sunday March 9, 2014 by 11:59 PM EST. For more information and to submit an application, click [here](#).



NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

INITIATIVE CORNER

***Safe Streets, Strong Communities Symposium* Champions Housing and Community Development as Tools for Safety**

“No housing can succeed if surrounded by unsafe streets,” said Secretary Shaun Donovan at the *Safe Streets, Strong Communities Symposium* sponsored by LISC and the Police Foundation in New York on January 15th. Secretary Donovan was joined by Attorney General Eric Holder, police chiefs and public health leaders in calling for greater collaboration between police, non-profit organizations and residents to make neighborhoods safe and well in the long term. Read about the symposium proceedings [here](#). The partnerships and strategies featured at the symposium are also described in LISC’s [Community Safety Resource Center](#), which will soon include materials specific to the U.S. Department of Justice Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program. Stay tuned!

Do you have a Technical Assistance (TA) Question, Request, or Suggestion?

Grantees with TA questions or requests, or a suggestion for an upcoming TA activity, are invited to submit them to BCT and HUD at hud.gov/choiceta.



RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Innovation Districts

In their official blog, [CitiesSpeak](#), the National League of Cities recently highlighted the benefits of using innovation districts as a tool to revitalize neighborhoods. These districts are currently being used in cities such as [Boston, MA](#); Las Vegas, NV; and Barcelona to promote collaboration and a work/life balance that appeals to younger entrepreneurs. Click [here](#) to read the article. The Brookings Institution has also begun exploring the merits of innovation districts. Click [here](#) to read a recent article on this topic by Bruce Katz of Brookings’ Metropolitan Policy Program.

Placemaking in Legacy Cities: Opportunities and Good Practices

Placemaking refers to the intentional process of activating new or existing public spaces to create an emotional connection. The Center for Community Progress has released a report outlining

how residents and leaders in four cities (Cincinnati, OH; Detroit, MI; Buffalo, NY; Pittsburgh, PA) have used placemaking principles to revitalize blighted public spaces into community assets. Click [here](#) to read the report.

Sustainable Housing in Indy's Smart Growth District

In the latest issue of HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research online magazine, *The Edge*, the challenge of developing sustainable, affordable housing options is highlighted in a case study of Indianapolis, IN. The article includes successful strategies employed in Indiana to improve road connectivity and walkability. Click [here](#) to read the article.

When Public Housing Residents Move, Does Crime Increase?

Housing vouchers have helped many families gain access to safer neighborhoods and greater economic opportunity. But do they increase crime? Urban Institute work just published in *Cityscape* adds to research on this question: in this study, depending on their age, some voucher recipients who had been displaced from public housing were more likely to be accused of crimes in their new neighborhoods while others were more likely to be victims. Click [here](#) to read the article.